



Friday Night

September 16th, 2011

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
James F. Huston, Executive Director



2011 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism Registration

Don't miss out! Early bird registration for the conference ends on September 23, 2011. For additional savings, the Sheraton Hotel and Suites is offering rooms for \$94 a night. This offer ends on September 23, 2011 also. [Click here](#) for more details.

OFBCI gives a warm welcome to Nick Betzner, our new VISTA



One week into his start at OFBCI, we are pleased to announce that Nick Betzner is our newest [Americorps VISTA](#) member. Growing up in Bunker Hill, Indiana, Nick attended Maconaquah High School and relocated to Indianapolis in 2007 to attend the [University of Indianapolis](#). While at UIndy, Nick studied history and international relations and served as president of the [Phi Alpha Theta honor society](#). During his tenure at UIndy, he built upon his affinity for service, interning at [Exodus Refugee Immigration](#) and volunteering at several community organizations, including: [Indianapolis Animal Care and Control](#), [Keep Indianapolis Beautiful](#), and [Wheeler Mission](#).

Upon graduation, he committed a year to serving as a VISTA in order to

Quick Links

[Indiana OFBCI](#)

[2011 Governor's Conference](#)

[AmeriCorps Indiana State of Indiana](#)

Community Calendar

- [Engage: Catalyst-X Training](#)
- [Fellowship of Christian Counselors Conference](#)
- [Healthy Women, Healthy Hoosiers](#)
- [The Indiana Nonprofit Capacity Building Conference](#)

give something back to the community that he lives in and loves. As a VISTA at OFBCI, Nick will primarily be assisting our agency with our One Stop Shop Web Portal, which is a working project that will be used to connect nonprofits to opportunities like grants, contracts, and volunteer efforts. Given his academic accomplishments, prior experiences, and commitment to service in the community, it is truly exciting to have Nick helping with this effort: we can't wait to share more with you as we work with him and as this project it develops!

Member Highlight:

**Ashley Kostelnik,
Indiana Response and Preparedness
Corps**

"Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened." ~Buddha



I am only one person (one candle) but when I share what I have learned with one person, they in turn share with another person and so on and so forth until millions of people share the same knowledge. As an Indiana Response and Preparedness Corps member at the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana, I come in contact with thousands of people within my year of service. When I serve two years, it turns into hundreds of thousands. Taking that into consideration, how could I not serve a second term?

A very intelligent and wise woman once told me, "Once in a while it is important to look at what you have done and be proud." Looking at my previous term of service, it is surreal to realize all that I have accomplished with the help of my fellow staff and AmeriCorps team members. In my position, I had the opportunity to book, plan, participate in and coordinate volunteers to work community events. Whereas in fiscal year 2009-2010 our Chapter participated in 496 events reaching 35,000 people, in fiscal year 2010-2011 (my AmeriCorps year) we participated in 479 events reaching **75, 500 people**. It is amazing we more than doubled the number of touches within our community.

In addition, I also helped to increase the number of Community Disaster Education touches from 15,000 to 26,000. These triumphs were accomplished through events such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service wherein we coordinated with community agencies like HOPE Worldwide, our local fire department, and college teams/clubs to engage community members to volunteer. These volunteers canvassed streets within two zip codes which historically have had the highest percentage of fires in Allen County. Through this event, 87 volunteers helped distribute fire safety and preparedness material in English, Spanish and Burmese. They distributed 2,700 door hangers and 100 smoke alarms were installed. An estimated 6,500 people were reached. This is only one of the many projects and events I had the pleasure of coordinating. [Click here to read the rest of the story.](#)



AmeriCorps Indiana

The OFBCI is hosting a training for the fiscal staff of its AmeriCorps programs on Thursday, September 22nd.

This training is conducted each year to ensure new programs feel prepared in processing their grants from the financial side. Also, this time will be used for returning programs to be updated on new procedures and policies from the National Corporation.

Also...

This is the inaugural year for Indiana AmeriCorps to have a LeaderCorps program. The mission of Indiana AmeriCorps LeaderCorps is to strengthen the National Service movement and identity in Indiana through effective outreach, community-wide service projects, and civic engagement. Applications for 2011-12 AmeriCorps State members are being accepted now and are to be submitted to the respective Program Director by October 17th unless the Program Director wants them submitted earlier.

OFBCI released the 2012-2013 AmeriCorps* State Request for Proposals

The Notice of Funding Opportunity, Indiana RFP, and Indiana Application Instructions are available [here](#)

High-impact organizations across Indiana are encouraged to submit their strongest applications for how to use AmeriCorps members to meet pressing community needs. To maximize its return on investment, programs that use an evidence-based approach to meeting community needs are encouraged to apply. The 2012 competition will target the six national focus areas: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families.

Fiscal Fact

The last fiscal fact related to in-kind contributions and how to properly record them so this week I would like to provide some examples that can typically be included as in-kind:

- Value of donated staff time
- Value of donated space
- Value of donated supplies
- Value of donated equipment
- Value of donated vehicles
- Value of donated services (training facilitators/evaluation)
- Value of telecommunications (telephone/internet)
- Value of utilities

This is not an all inclusive list but hopefully it provides an idea of the norms and areas in which you may be able to be creative!

Inclusion Infusion

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a mental health condition that affects many people, including veterans, around the world. The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a wealth of information regarding Veterans and PTSD that you can download and/or view at your convenience. These resources, including a PTSD coach for your smart phone, are available [here](#)



OFBCI's Media Corner:

Connect With Us, Connect to Each Other!

Fulfilling several core elements of the OFBCI's mission, we are encouraging community partners to network with our agency via social media. Connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and we'll do everything we can to use the web to **connect** you with resources and other organizations, **promote** the spirit of volunteerism and service, and **highlight** what you're doing in your community.

If you've been cautious about getting involved with social media, it can be a fun way to market when much of the world has gone digital, an efficient way to get the word out when budgets are under close scrutiny, and with the right know-how, it can be a great tool to find local people who are interested in your cause. Here are some quick tips to building social media into a routine part of your marketing:

1) Start following and connecting with local media outlets – especially individual reporters' accounts

- You may find broad utility in following [@WFIU](#) on Twitter, but may get more interaction and engagement when also following a reporter like [@kystokes](#) (and it doesn't hurt to connect on Facebook as well, commenting when appropriate and getting your organization's name out there).

2) Don't broadcast any messages that you wouldn't say to a reporter.

- Though the best social media accounts have a good mix of information and personality, always be sure your Facebook and Twitter accounts are professional and stay true to your mission.

3) Follow innovators and dedicate a few minutes each day to reading their advice on social media.

- There are many our agency follows, but in particular, Anthony

Juliano ([@ajuliano](#)) works with nonprofits and has routinely good insight.

4) Don't be afraid to try a new medium, new techniques, and / or applications, but do your homework first.

- Google Plus and LinkedIn are great, too, but do they provide new opportunities for your organization? Would using them complement your current efforts that work, or take time away from them? Every organization must ask questions like that before investing time so you can expect a return on that investment.

Many more tips and tricks can be found on the web, but we'd love to hear your story. Connect with us and we'll share what you say about your experience – about what works, what didn't, and have an ongoing dialogue with you wherever you are in Indiana and whatever the nature of the good works you're doing.

Did You Know?

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 established a new public service loan forgiveness program. This program discharges any remaining debt after 10 years of full-time employment in public service. The borrower must have made 120 payments as part of the Direct Loan program in order to obtain this benefit. More information click [here](#).